



Delegation: Ms. Judy Thompson and Ms. Corrine Beresford-Leeco presented information they gathered and shared their concerns regarding COVID 19. Given that our Division protocols follow AHS and Government guidelines, Chairperson Starosielski asked that the delegation re-direct the information to the appropriate health authorities including the 3 MLAs that serve communities in our area.

COVID School Return: After an extended winter break, the Government of Alberta released the [Guidance for Schools \(K-12\) and School Buses](#) and [COVID-19 Daily Health Checklist](#). At this time, after school extracurricular team practices and league games will continue as scheduled but tournaments will be cancelled in January. All other school based health measures and protocols, including masking, will remain status quo at this time. The Government issued masks and rapid test kits will be made available for families who wish to receive them. A consent form will be required. The Government also announced an e-Hub learning site which consists of only pre-recorded lessons for students in Grades 4-9 at this time. There will be no changes to the current 2021/2022 school calendar. Staff and student absences remain relatively stable at this time.

AP 164-A COVID-19 Harm Reduction: This new, temporary AP was introduced to staff on December 9, 2021. There is no requirement to be vaccinated nor even to declare one's status. Staff can choose to share proof of vaccination or participate in a rapid testing program by registering with our third party COVIDdetect program by January 14, 2022. Rapid antigen testing will commence on March 1, 2022 for those staff choosing this option. As questions were brought forth, a document of questions and answers was developed then shared with staff members. Board Chairperson Starosielski asked that this document be shared with the Trustees. The Board of Trustees voted that trustees would also be subject to the administrative procedure.

2022-2023 School Calendar: Draft calendars will be shared with staff and with parents at school council meetings. Administrators should also share the information about how a calendar is developed. The Board will discuss feedback collected from parents and staff at the February meeting.

SPECS Name Change: The Board approval for the Name Change Committee will be presented at the school's January School Council meeting on January 18, 2022. The administration is beginning discussions about how to best reach out to stakeholders.

Rural Caucus: Trustee Wiebe was elected as a Director to Alberta Rural Caucus. Trustee Rajoo was appointed as the new St. Pau Education representative for the Rural Caucus. Trustee Smyl was appointed as the new alternate.

Glen Avon Sponsorship: The Board of Trustee reviewed and approved a request from Glen Avon school for Summit Wireline to sponsor warm up gear for the senior basketball teams.

IMR/Capital Plan: The Board approved a motion to approve the 2021-22 IMR/Capital plan.

Trustee Code of Conduct: Upon review by the legal department, it was determined that Policy 4 required significant updates in order to align with the Education Act and other legislations. The Board approved the new policy.

Policy Review Schedule: The Board of Trustees reviewed a proposed annual schedule for review of Division Policies.

Trustee Code of Conduct Review: Policy 4 Trustee Code of Conduct was updated and reviewed.

Locally Developed Course: The Board reviewed and approved a request to acquire a new 3 credit Locally Developed Course "Building Communities of Hope" 15, 25, 35 for use in all division high schools.

My Luv Pak: The Board shared the support for this initiative which provides students involved with Child and Family Services offices in the Lakeland area a backpack full of items such as toiletries, sensory items, water bottles, snacks, socks, seasonal items, etc..

Superintendent's Report

Shifts to At home learning: Superintendent Brodziak has the authority to move a single grade or cluster of grades to online learning but not an entire school. Any possible shifts to at home learning will consider a number of factors such as staff availability and student absences. Decisions will be made on a case by case basis.

At Home or In School Learning: Parents are asked to make a decision about at home or in school learning by January 14, 2022. Parents are asked to contact their child's school if they wish to make a change. This change will be for the remainder of the school year.

Diploma Exams: Exams are canceled for January 2022.

Offsite Incident: As was reported in the media, an incident involving a number of students from our division was brought forth to school and senior administration involving racism. Superintendent Brodziak received many calls and emails regarding the incident and concerns for student safety and well-being. To address the numerous queries received about the reasons for our involvement, Superintendent Brodziak referred to a number of sections under the Education Act which outline the legal responsibilities of parents, students, the Board and Division. Every year, a letter of Fair Notice is shared in the registration package describing how to respond to worrisome behaviours. Superintendent Brodziak shared a list of activities that are currently occurring in schools that address the topics bullying, discrimination, digital citizenship, respect, kindness, and empathy. Prior to the pandemic, every staff member and certain grade levels were required to participate in a Blue Quills Residential Tour and a Blanket Exercise in our efforts to address the Calls to Action in the Truth & Reconciliation. Superintendent Brodziak



acknowledged that there is more effort needed to address issues occurring in our schools, communities and society at large. Superintendent Brodziak requested additional funds to support the division's work in this area. The Board approved a motion to allocate \$10,000 to reinforce work in this area with all students, staff, families and communities.

Inclement Weather Policy: Superintendent Brodziak reviewed the existing AP and did not make any changes at this time. Parents make the final decision in terms of sending their child on the bus to school.

Recent Media Stories: Superintendent Brodziak corrected publicly reported misconceptions in regards to masking in schools. As per the Chief Medical Officer of Health's public health order 55-2201, section 13(B), all Staff and students from Grade 4 to 12 must wear a mask while in school. It is acknowledged that masks are uncomfortable but under the current health and safety orders, the school division is required to follow such orders. St. Paul Education has not put in any additional masking measures beyond what is required by the Government of Alberta. Students are not required to wear government issued masks. The process for students and staff who are non-compliant was reviewed with the Board of Trustees. Continued and repeated non-compliance with this public health order has a significant negative impact on the learning of all students. Board Chair Starosielski asked that media outlets contact the board chair or superintendent to confirm accurate information.

Jump Start Grant: Congratulations to Regional High School for receiving this grant of \$900.

Bell "Let's Talk Day": February 26 is Bell Let's Talk Day, which brings attention to mental health and wellness initiatives in Canada. As a Division, we are exploring possible learning opportunities for our students and staff to participate in around mental health and wellness on this day.

Council of School Councils (COSC): Trustee Smyl reported about the first committee meeting of Council of School Council. The committee met on plans and goals for the current school year and they will be sharing more information with School Council executives and principals in an upcoming email along with planning a spring engagement session.

Trustee Attendance Schedule: Trustees shared their schedules for the upcoming month.

Financial Report

Enrolment Projections: Secretary-Treasurer Champagne reported that our division submitted an initial enrolment projection for the 2022-23 school year which is forecasting 25 fewer students.

Information/Correspondence

Curriculum Update: On December 13 the Education Minister made an announcement that they were changing course slightly on the draft curriculum, including adjusting the timelines for implementation due to COVID. English Language Arts, Math and Physical wellness will be implemented next school year. Due to substantial feedback, the Social Studies draft curriculum will be reviewed and Fall implementation is paused. The announcement also stated that virtual sessions will be announced for further community engagement.

ASBA Key Dates: January 31 Trustee Orientation.

Minister's Teacher and Parent Advisory Councils: Board Chair Starosielski expressed concerns that our area does not appear to be represented on either of these councils.

Rural Education Conference: This conference will take place on March 6-8. The early bird deadline for registration is January 31, 2022. The conference is slated to be in person at this time.

ASCA Annual Conference: This conference will take place on April 22 and 23, 2022. The Board typically sponsors at least 2 participants from our local school councils. It is understood that it will be in-person and some virtual. More information to be released.

** Note: We experienced some technical difficulties during the board meeting livestream. The recorded portion posted on the Division Youtube channel is complete if anyone experienced a disruption while watching it live.*